

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 065675
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TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
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USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES
USNMR BRUSSELS
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USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS

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CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 065675

TAGS: PEPR, PGOV

SUBJECT:US-EC-9 PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE: CURRENT EASTERN
MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. DANISH EMBOFF TOLD DEPTOFF MARCH 13 THAT EC-9 MEDITER-
RANEAN EXPERTS AT MEETING MARCH 3 TO PREPARE FOR MARCH 15-16

MEETING OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS HAD EXCHANGED VIEWS RE CURRENT EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN SITUATION AND GENERALLY CONCLUDED THAT THIS WAS NOT APPROPRIATE TIME FOR NEW EC-9 INITIATIVES. RATHER, EXPERTS FELT EC-9 MEMBER STATES SHOULD NOT CONSIDER SUCH POSSIBILITY UNTIL AFTER MONTREUX SUMMIT AND UNTIL AFTER TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS HAD BECOME KNOWN. DANISH EMBOFF SAID EC-9 GOVERNMENTS HAD SOUGHT THROUGH BILATERAL CHANNELS TO URGE TURKS TO BE FORTHCOMING IN DEVELOPING CYPRUS PROPOSALS AND TO URGE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO RESPOND CONSTRUCTIVELY. HOWEVER, NO DEMARCHES OR PUBLIC PRONOUNCEMENTS WERE CONTEMPLATED. FYI. WHILE DANISH EMBOFF DID NOT SPEAK TO THIS POINT, WE HAVE IMPRESSION THAT AT LEAST SOME EC MEMBER STATES ARE RELUCTANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED AT THIS TIME IN EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN QUESTIONS BECAUSE OF DESIRE TO AVOID POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS WITH EC/GREECE ENTRY NEGOTIATIONS AND RELATED QUESTION OF HOW TO HANDLE FUTURE EC/TURKEY RELATIONSHIP. END FYI.

2. IN RESPONSE DANISH EMBOFF QUERY RE INITIAL U.S. REACTION TO GREEK/TURKISH SUMMIT AT MONTREUX, DEPTOFF SAID THAT JUDGING FROM LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US MARCH 13, I.E., PRESS REPORTS AND TEXT OF WARM AND FRIENDLY COMMUNIQUE, SUMMIT APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN QUITE SUCCESSFUL. WE HOPED THAT MEETING WOULD PROVE USEFUL TO PAVE WAY FOR CONCRETE DISCUSSIONS OF MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO GREECE AND TURKEY.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 065675

3. DANISH EMBOFF ALSO INQUIRED ABOUT HARSH CRITICISM OF USG BY TURKISH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT DURING AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SUMMIT. DEPTOFF SAID THAT ECEVIT WAS APPARENTLY REACTING TO REPORTS TO ANSWER SECRETARY HAD GIVEN IN TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MARCH 9 (TEXT SENT STATE 063814). DEPTOFF NOTED THAT US REACTION WOULD BE CONVEYED BY DEPT SPOKESMAN LATER MARCH 13. (IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, EMBASSY SHOULD PROVIDE MFA WITH TEXT OF TRANSCRIPT (STATE 064266), PARTICULARLY NOTING SPOKESMAN'S ANSWER TO FIRST QUESTION.)

4. DEPTOFF SAID THAT WE WERE CONTINUING TO URGE TURKS TO COME FORWARD AT EARLY DATE WITH AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS ON KEY CYPRUS ISSUES OF TERRITORY AND CONSTITUTION. HE TOLD DANISH EMBOFF THIS POINT WOULD BE STRESSED TO TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL AT MEETING LATER MARCH 13 BY COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST. WE HAVE ALSO MADE POINT TO BOTH GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS THAT WE HOPE GREEK CYPRIOTS WILL CAREFULLY CONSIDER TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS WHEN THEY ARE PUT FORWARD, TO DETERMINE POSITIVE ELEMENTS AND SIGNS OF

FLEXIBILITY THAT MAY OFFER BASIS FOR RESUMED INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS.

5. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION MARCH 14 DUTCH EMBOFF (PROTECT) TOLD DEPTOFF THAT TURKISH MFA HAD CALLED IN DANISH AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA MARCH 9 TO URGE DENMARK, ON BEHALF EC-9 TO INTERVENE WITH USG IN SUPPORT OF TURKISH CONCERN THAT ADMINISTRATION MOVE AHEAD PROMPTLY IN CONGRESS WITH TURKISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITHOUT WAITING TURKISH MOVE ON CYPRUS. DUTCH EMBOFF SAID THAT EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS AT MARCH 15-16 MEETING WOULD CONSIDER WHETHER EC SHOULD MAKE REPRESENTATIONS IN WASHINGTON ALONG THESE LINES AND HOW EC SHOULD RESPOND TO TURKISH REQUEST. HE EXPRESSED PERSONAL DOUBT THAT EC WOULD DECIDE TO MAKE APPROACH TO USG. DEPT-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 065675

OFF SAID WE WOULD ALWAYS BE GLAD TO HAVE EUROPEAN VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS, BUT EXPLAINED DEPARTMENT EFFORTS MARCH 13 THROUGH COMMENTS BY PRESS SPOKESMAN AND MEETING WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO PUT MATTER INTO PERSPECTIVE.

HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EC MEMBER STATES, WITHOUT TRYING TO MAKE LINKAGE BETWEEN TURKISH-US DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP AND CYPRUS, WOULD CONTINUE TO URGE TURKISH SIDE TO COME FORWARD WITH GOOD CYPRUS PROPOSALS, A STEP WHICH WOULD MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION NOT ONLY TO PROSPECTS FOR MOVEMENT TOWARD CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, BUT WHICH WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED IN EUROPE AS WELL AS IN US.

6. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS HAD OVER LAST TWO WEEKS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS TOLD ENQUIRING WASHINGTON EMBASSY OFFICERS AS WELL AS FOREIGN MINISTRY VISITORS TO WASHINGTON THAT U.S. HAD BEEN DOING WHAT IT COULD TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE, FLEXIBLE TURKISH PROPOSALS ON CYPRUS WHILE ALSO SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE BOTH GOVERNMENT OF CYPRUS AND GOVERNMENT OF GREECE TO LOOK UPON SUCH PROPOSALS IN CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER. NIMETZ AND VEST HAD OFFERED U.S. PERSPECTIVE OF SITUATION IN CONVERSATIONS WITH HIBBERT OF UK, VON DOHNANYI AND BLECH OF FRG AND MERILLON OF FRANCE, AND URGED THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER MAKING SAME POINTS. IN ADDITION, VEST TOLD YUGOSLAV MFA OFFICIAL BERNARDIC MARCH 8 THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YUGOSLAVS COULD URGE GREEK CYPRIOTS TO PREPARE TO RESPOND TO TURKISH CYPRIOT PROPOSALS AS REPRESENTING FIRST EFFORT AND OPENING POSITIONS FOR SUBSEQUENT INTERCOMMUNAL NEGOTIATIONS.

7. REGARDING TURKISH ECONOMIC SITUATION, WE HAVE NOTED FOR GERMAN AND DUTCH EMBASSIES IN RESPONSE TO THEIR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST THAT DURING FEB. 22-23 NIMETZ TALKS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 065675

IN ANKARA, AND SUBSEQUENTLY WE HAVE ENCOURAGED GOT TO WORK OUT ECONOMIC STABILIZATION PROGRAM, TO NEGOTIATE WITH IMF, AND TO DISCUSS SHORT-TERM DEBT PROBLEM WITH FOREIGN PRIVATE BANKS. WHILE US SYMPATHETIC AND CONCERNED RE TURKISH ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES, WE MADE NO COMMITMENTS RE WHAT USG MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO ASSIST TURKEY AT SOME POINT IN FUTURE. TURKISH DEL IS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON CONDUCTING TALKS WITH IMF.

8. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING IN DISCUSSING EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN WITH MFA PRIOR POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING.
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